

questions, received numerous demonstrations and were performed and various tests of BRSC's system.

Upon the completion of the trip the professors briefed the USAREUR DCSLOG (BG Larry LST) on what they had observed. They contended that of over a thousand property systems they had seen, BRSC had the best. They stated that they had some pre-conceived notions prior to making the trip that the contractor's system and the government's administration of that system had gone amiss. They were surprised to see the opposite. They stated that the visit had opened their eyes to a lot of areas not currently addressed in the DOD property regulations with regard to contingency contracting and based upon that, they found it remarkable that we were able to run a contract such as OJGS within the boundaries of property law. They were extremely complimentary of BRSC's property management and our administration of the contract. They told us that because of having seen this operation, they would be better able to make recommendations of suggested changes to the committee on the rewrite of FAR Part 45 and the DOD Property Manual.

Since the professors return, they have been successful in removing the restriction on contractors of only being able to acquire equipment if the equipment is an end item(s) under cost reimbursement contracts. They continue to work with the FAR Part 45 and DOD Property Manual rewrite teams.

WHAT'S NEW ON THE CAREER FRONT

TRAINING UPDATE

FY 98 THE YEAR OF CHANGES!!!!

(Jean Neill, CEHNC)

DEFENSE ACQUISITION UNIVERSITY (DAU) has changed the contracting courses, by combining, eliminating and renaming others.

Thus streamlining the program.

They Have Eliminated

CON 103 Construction Contract Fundamentals
CON 106 Construction Contract Pricing
CON 223 Construction Contract Management

Since DAU Has adjusted some of the courses across the board, our acquisition engineers are no longer confined to using navy facilities training center courses only. They are being placed in schools closer to their location making it more cost effective for U.S. Army Research, Development and Acquisition Information Systems Activity (RDAISA).

Current Courses Required by 0800 Series for Their Warrant.

CON 101 Fundamentals of Contracting
CON 104 Fundamentals of Contract Pricing
CON 202 Intermediate Contracting
CON 210 Government Contract Law.

DAU Has Combined

CON 211 \
CON 221 \ CON 202 Intermediate Contracting
CON 223 /

If an 1100 or Any Acquisition 0800 (ENGRS) Have Completed CON 211, CON 221 OR CON 223. They Do Not Have to Complete CON 202 to Meet Their Level II Requirement, Rdaisa Will Disapprove the Application Due to Previous Completion of Either CON 211, 221 OR 223 COURSES.

DAU Has Changed

CON 201 Government Contract Law to Con 210
CON 231 Intermediate Contract Pricing to Con 204

New Courses Added to the Program

CON 243 A& E Contracting
CON 244 Construction Contracting
The Course Descriptions Can Be Found in the

FY98 DAU Catalog or on the Internet. There Are Five Sessions for FY 98 and the Army Has 22 Spaces in Each Session. Prerequisites for Student, They must Have Completed CON 101 & CON 104.

DAU Has Canceled Many Sessions in Various Courses. This Action Has Affected Some Corps Employees. Rdaisa Is Trying to Find Other Sessions to Place Our People In. I Will Be Contacting Each Person That Has Had Their Space Canceled, So We Can Try and Get Them into Other Sessions.

Please Note That it Is Imperative That Each Applicant for DAU Courses Have Listed on Their 1556 the Following Information Where They Can Be Contacted, as it must Be Put into the Atrrs System. Valid Phone Number, a Fax Number and Their E-mail Address. This Information Is Needed by the Quota and Money Management People RDAISA.

The FY 99 Schedule Should Be Published in mid July 98. I Will E-mail it to All Training Coordinators and Training Officers. Please Contact Me If You Have Any Questions.

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**Reflections of the "Pilot" Procurement
Management Mentorship Program**
(By Mary FitzGerald, CEPR-O)

In March 1997, "Developing High Potential Personnel" was introduced to us as a new opportunity for formal mentoring with emphasis on professional development and acquisition. Ms.

Esther Morse has been recognized and applauded for her introduction of the National Capital Region's one-year pilot Mentorship Program for Career Program 14 careerist. It is now up to us as US Army Corps of Engineers contracting and acquisition personnel to seek further opportunity by continuing the operation. Mentoring is a continuous support for everyone's needs. It is not to be used as an accessory, dependent upon your Agency's monetary contributions to institutionalize a formal program.

Contracting is a great field. It's changing the way the government spends and buys through simplified acquisition procedures. The government now makes its own decisions for each involved decision, looks at equipment as ownership costs, and tries different experiences, policies, rules, and regulations. I strongly urge you to all go out and gather mentees to finish the job, as mentorship is a constant process. - Dr. Kenneth Oscar, DASA-P

What we are looking for...

The Mentor is required to have a strong commitment to sincerely helping the mentee. The mentee must have the interest to aspire and attain career goals. Both the mentor and mentee will be involved in orientation workshops designed to equip both with the tools necessary to be an effective mentor or mentee. The workshops will also outline reasonable expectations for the partnership and roles and responsibilities of the two parties. The requirements of each mentoring partnership will vary slightly, depending upon the needs of the mentee and the availability of the mentor. In addition, participation in the program has been identified by SARDA to present Continuing Education Units based upon established criteria.

The professional development and growth of opportunities are endless. So it is up to you to as:

Mentors

* Develop and refine your coaching and counseling skills

- * Share your knowledge about your profession
- * Identify yourself as a talented individual within the organization
- * Improve the organizational climate

Mentees

- * Gain an understanding of dynamics affecting your career
- * Increase your networking skills
- * Clarify your career goals based on self-assessments
- * Develop a plan for achieving your goals

The institutionalization of the PMMP is a process that will not happen by itself. Management must prepare the organization for a fundamental transformation in the way it promotes mentoring and must drive the change with comprehensive policies and planned activities supported by specifically designated organizational resources.

(Source: SARDA Procurement Management Mentoring Program 'Lessons Learned')

I can personally relay information to fellow Mentorship participants, and their supporting management personnel; that the time and effort placed in creating educational opportunities for others, while developing yourself will be beneficial to all of those who totally accept the challenge to learn and grow; to bring their newly gained learning experiences to others; and to share them as an instructor. I wish all of you great successes throughout your journey and the strength to keep striving towards your envisioned dreams. -Mary Fitzgerald, USACE

A Corps Acquisition Professional Receives The General MacArthur Award

On 14 May 1998, the Chief of Staff of the Army awarded the General MacArthur award to Cpt. Matthew T. Riordan, Kansas City District, Lakes and Rivers Divisions. CPT Riordan distinguished himself by exemplary service as the Deputy of the Contracting Division, U.S. Army Corps of Engineer,

Kansas City District, the 7th largest contracting division in USACE. He continued to make the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers a vital part of the Army by volunteering to serve as a Contracting/Operations Officer in support of the Infantry Division during Operation Joint Guard (OJG) in Bosnia. He acted as the Contracting Officer Technical Representative for the \$484 million Logistics Civil Augmentation Program (LOGCAP) contingency contract and served as the point of contact for the 3,000 person contractor and for the Defense Contracting Management Command International team. He also coordinated with the Joint Contracting Center and with the NATO liaison officers on special projects. He was chosen to represent the 1st Infantry Division to brief and defend over \$700,000 in facilities expansion requirements to the TAACOM Commander. CPT Riordan was also recognized by the Corps' Commander for his in-depth analysis and economic engineering of possible proposals that resulted in savings of over \$200,000 on these projects. His efforts to streamline the Joint Acquisition Review Board procedures successfully reduced the average meeting time from over three hours to less than one hour, ensuring that the 1st Infantry Division's construction needs were met timely. CPT Riordan was responsible for planning and executing the Base Camp Commanders' Course which resulted in effective resource management by new base camp commanders and recognition from the Division Chief of Staff and USAREUR staff. Finally, he acted as the single point of contact on the LOGCAP work and processed nearly 300 work orders. Other results from OJG: Received on the spot coin from the 130th Engineer Brigade Commander, ARCOM, AFSCM, NATO Medal, and top-block OER.

Upon returning to the states CPT Riordan resumed his duties as Deputy of the Contracting Division flawlessly. He achieved Level 11 Certification in the Army Acquisition Corps by immediately completing Intermediate Contract Management and Government Contract Law with an average grade of 95 percent. As the spring approached the potential for flooding along the Missouri River lead him to

facilitate the design and award of three separate, unique contingency contracts to provide 2-hour response flood-fighting services extendible for a five year period. As the Deputy, he also completed the staffing plan for the contracting division and coordinated the Commercial Activities (OMB A76) study effort on the Director of Public Works at Fort Riley. To ensure that the Kansas City District was taking advantage of and complying with the many Department of Defense acquisition reform initiatives, he developed the Acquisition Reform Team concept to keep the contract specialists informed on a monthly basis. For example, as a first topic he coordinated a demonstration on electronic source selection process, a technique that could reduce the costs of future source selections by 30 to 50 percent. CPT Riordan lead the Acquisition Reform Day training in 1997 and oversaw the processing of 53 actions through Electronic Data Interchange (EDI), a solely electronic commerce federal initiative.

In an effort to pre-empt potential problems on the award of the new United State Disciplinary Barracks at Fort Leavenworth, he lead the effort to assist small businesses in receiving plans and specifications in a timely manner by providing a list of printing firms on the corresponding compact disc.

CPT Riordan was responsible for the award of the Fort Riley Barracks project (\$31 million) which was unsuccessfully attempted in 1996. This project included five barracks buildings, two soldier community buildings, and one company operations building. The award of this project made Department of the Army "green" under military construction for FY97. In addition to this project, CPT Riordan assisted in negotiating and awarding the indefinite-delivery, architect-engineer contract for master planning at Fort Riley; prepared, briefed, and received approval to obtain a Total Environmental Restoration Contract (TERC) for the boundaries of the Northwestern Division, a \$270 million contract which is the largest contract in the Kansas City District to date.

CPT Riordan is a member of the National Contract Management Association (NCMA) and will take the Contract Associate Certified Manager (CACM) exam in November; will receive his contracting officer warrant for actions under \$10 million in December 1997. He organized the kids events at the Annual District Picnic and supported the Kansas City Corporate Challenge by organizing the Tug-o-War team to achieve 5th place and ultimately to take the Gold in Division C (see article). Finally, CPT Riordan's average APFT score in 1997 was 298 points.

Duty: Volunteered to stay in Bosnia so that six other USACE officers could return to their families for Christmas.

Honor: Served as a member of the Knights of Columbus.

Country: Volunteered with the Cub Scouts of America; served as a support couple for Catholic Engaged Enco unter Retreats; and maintained a relationship with former Little Brother from Big Brothers and Big Sisters Association.

RECENT AUDIT FINDING

Corps contracting offices are not conducting a thorough market research in their efforts to acquire contractor support services.

FAR 10.001 states that "agencies shall conduct market research appropriate to the circumstances before developing new requirements documents for an acquisition by that agency." It goes on to say techniques for conducting market research may include "querying government data bases that provide information relevant to agency acquisitions ... and obtaining source lists of similar items from other contracting offices and agencies."

The Information Technology Management Reform Act (ITMRA) authorizes the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to designate "one or more